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ABSTRACT

The BSIT (BS in Industrial Technology) Program, which leads to a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology, at Southern Arkansas University is focused on the needs of the non-traditional student who desires to complete program requirements while maintaining existing full-time employment. The program also focuses on the needs of local industry in preparing graduates skilled in technology, math, and science. Core courses are offered for full-day sessions on alternate weekends (both Saturdays and Sundays). The program encourages the extension of Associate Degree programs and provides some recognition for on-the-job experiential learning. A list of required courses for the BSIT program is appended. (JDD)

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A Submission to the AASCU/ERIC model Programs Inventory:

Southern Arkansas University
Magnolia, Arkansas

BSIT Program: A Non-traditionnal Learning Opportunity

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10/8/90

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HE 024 108

AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory is a two-year project seeking to establish and test a model system for collecting and disseminating information on model programs at AASCU-member institutions--375 of the public four-year colleges and universities in the United States.

The four objectives of the project are:

- To increase the information on model programs available to all institutions through the ERIC system
- To encourage the use of the ERIC system by AASCU institutions
- To improve AASCU's ability to know about, and share information on, activities at member institutions, and
- To test a model for collaboration with ERIC that other national organizations might adopt.

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project is funded with a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, in collaboration with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education at The George Washington University.

ABSTRACT:

Southern Arkansas University's BSIT Program (BS in Industrial Technology) is unique in the following ways:

1) The program focuses on the needs of the employed non-traditional student,
2) The program expands the potential for Associate Degree persons,
3) The program provides some recognition for experiential learning,
4) The program was created to fill an exixting regional industrial need for a technologically trained graduate, and
5) Core courses are offered for full day sessions on alternate weekends (both Saturdays and Sundays) for the convenience of employed students.

INTRODUCTION;

The following pages detail a unique program leading to a BS in Industrial Technology at Southern Arkansas University.

The program is focused on the needs of the non-traditional student who may or may not have had some college level educational experiences but who has the desire to complete the requirements for an accredited BS program and still maintain his existing full-time employment.

The program also focuses on the needs of local industry in obtaining a graduate skilled in technology, math, and science.

Among the unique features described is the scheduling of course offerings which enables the student to make significant strides in his or her educational goals and have the least disruption on his or her work and home environment.

The program also encourages the extension of Associate Degree programs and makes limited use of on-the-job experiential learning.

BACKGROUND:

In January of 1987, Southern Illinois University responded to industrial requests in the Camden, Arkansas area to provide Baccalaureate level educational opportunity to their employees. SIU's response was to offer one of their degree programs (Industrial Technology) on a weekend schedule.

Due to logistical difficulties, SIU withdrew the program in November of 1988. As a result of the continuing need and because of it's resources which include two area Junior Colleges, Southern Arkansas University added this program to it's degree offering in January of 1989 with the acceptance and accreditation of the Arkansas State Board of Higher Education and the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges.

DESCRIPTION:

The BSIT Program at Southern Arkansas University is a special program to provide employed persons in Southwest Arkansas the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology. It is primarily an extension program offered on site in the industrial centers of our region.

The program has the following salient features:

1) The opportunity for employed persons to earn a North Central accredited degree,

2) A technical degree attractive to industry due in part to the requirement for math, science, and the industrial disciplines,

3) An attractive class time offering in that core courses are offered on five, eight hour sessions for three semester hours of credit. Normal scheduling is on Saturday or Sunday on alternate weekends for ten weeks. Presently, four terms of two courses each are offered each year so that in eight terms or two years the student can complete the core courses for the Industrial Technology major. Most of the other humanities and general education requirements are available through standard night classes.

4) Up to ten hours of upper level credit can be awarded through portfolio presentation of prior experiential learning, and

5) Accredited Junior College credit is accepted up to a maximum of 68 hours and is generally applied to the Basic Technology core (34 semester hours) or to the General Education core (43 semester hours). The remaining 51 semester hours in the Industrial Technology core are offered through the weekend extension schedule.

The program is staffed by a full time coordinator/instructor and other faculty and adjunct faculty members as the need for various sections becomes apparent.

During the first two years, the program has received no state funding and has been supported by the University and off-campus tuitions which are frequently covered by local industries in behalf of students who are employed by these industries.

A degree plan is enclosed to illustrate the degree of specialization attained by our graduates.

RESULTS:

As the BSIT Program at SAU enters the last semester of the two year cycle, the University has been shown continuing interest and need for the program. From the initial pilot group, we have twenty two students who will have completed their Industrial Technology core requirements and have only a few remaining hours of General Education requirements to complete their BS degree requirements.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Although, at the time of this writing, the defense oriented industrial base in our region has slowed, we find a considerable interest in a whole new group of students in becoming involved in the program. It would appear our future is bright in this area and we have found yet another way to extend educational opportunities to the non-traditional student.

Further, our experience has shown reception to our premise that industrial employers prefer a more technical education and understanding even in those areas that do not require an engineering degree and that a degree grounded in math, science, and industrial disciplines fills an often missed nitch in the educational needs of our community and region.

By dedicating ourselves to satisfying the needs of our customer (our student) through convenient scheduling and strong curriculum as well as the needs of the end user of our product (the industrial employer), we feel we are extending our mission.

UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY SCHOOL DEAN, SAU MAGNOLIA.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY, MAGNOLIA, AR 71753

GEN. ED. (43 HR. TOTAL)	REQ	HAS	NEEDS	GRADE
Humanities (16 Total)				
ENG 1113 (Comp I)	3			
ENG 1123 (Comp II)	3			
ENG 2213 (Lit I)	3			
ENG 2223 (Lit II)	3			
FA 3002 (Art)	2			
FA 3012 (Music)	2			
EPT/GSTD 1603 (RevComp)				
Social Sciences (12 Total)				
HIST 2013 or 2023 (US) or				
PSCI 2003 or 2013 (Am Gov)	3			
Additional Hist for 6 Total	3/6			
HIST				
HIST				
Additional 3-6 hrs				
ECON 2003, GEOG 2003,				
PSYC 2003, SOC 2003				
PSCI 2003, or 2013 (not both)				
Physical & Health Ed (5 Total)				
HS 1403 (Health)	3			
PHED (Activity)	1			
PHED (Activity)	1			
Natural Sci (7 hr. Total)				
PHYS 2004 (Gen Phys/wLab)	4			
BIO SCI(GSCI-1013) or	3			
MATH 1023 (Col Alg)	3			

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CORE (51 HR. TOTAL)	REQ	HAS	NEEDS	GRADE
ENG 2023 (Mfg. Processes)	3			
PSYC 3113 (Ind. Psychology)	3			
CSCI 3503 (Computer Methods)	3			
ENGR 3003 (Quality Control)	3			
ENGR 2044 (Flex. Auto. Sys)	4			
MGMT3033 (Motion & Time)	3			
MGMT3183 (Statistics)	3			
MGMT 4063 (Ind. Management)	3			
ENGR 3013 (Maintenance)	3			
ENGR 3023 (Production & Inv)	3			
MATH 3023 (Applied Cal)	3			
CSCI 3603 (CAM)	3			
ENGR 3033 (Ind. Safety)	3			
MGMT 4033 (Mfg. Policy)	3			
Work Experience/Tech Elect /				
Applied Project (0-8 hrs)	0/8			
ENGR 4901-4				
ENGR 4911-2				
ENGR 4921-2				
ENGR 4931-3				
ENGR 4941-3				
ENGR 4951-3				

BASIC TECHNICAL CORE (34 HR. TOTAL)	REQ	HAS	NEEDS	GRADE
MATH -1033 (Trig)	3			
Free Elective (0-2 Hrs)	0/2			
Approved Associate Degree				
or Equivalent Courses	29			

____ (128 min) Hr. completed for grade
____ (2.00 min) Grade Point Average
____ (25% Max) Hr. of "D" grades.

40 Hr. min. must be 3000 level or above.
68 Hr. max. may be transferred from a Junior College.

0-8 hours of Applied Projects/Technical Electives will be approved in consultation with SAU-M advisor. Work experience which satisfies the accreditation standards of CAEL may substitute for 0-8 hours of Applied Projects/Technical Electives and/or 0-2 hours of Free Electives.

NOTE: School Catelog takes precedence for all degree requirements.

This Degree Plan expires _____.
Any errors noted must be reported immediately to the Registrar's Office.

Signatures: Advisor _____; Dean _____; Student _____